

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 13 and 15 - 19 are pending in the application. Claims 6 and 9 - 13 are allowed. Claims 1 – 5, 7, 8, and 15 - 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 102. Claims 1, 8, and 18 are hereby rewritten, and claim 19 is cancelled. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims, as explained in the attached Remarks.

The rewriting of claims 1 and 8 is supported at page 6, lines 3 – 30, and elsewhere throughout the specification. The rewriting of claim 18 is supported throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added to the application.

Summary of Interview

In an interview conducted by telephone between the Examiner herein and the undersigned Applicants' Attorney on 16 December 2003, it was agreed that claim 4, which was previously indicated to be allowable, is allowable over the art of record.

No agreement was reached on the remaining unallowed claims. The Examiner acknowledged that Ollila does not disclose or suggest the use of alternating current (ac) waveforms, but indicated that clarification of that limitation should be provided in the claim. The examiner further agreed that Ollila does not disclose or suggest the use of diaphragms and / or linear actuators as recited in claim 4 and other claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

At page 2 of the Detailed action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 15 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by Ollila.

With respect to claims 1 – 3, 5, 7, and 8, neither Ollila nor any of the other cited references suggests or discloses, as discussed during the above-summarized interview, the use of bipolar alternating current (ac) waveforms.

With respect to claims 4 and 15 – 17, neither Ollila nor any of the other cited references suggests or discloses, as discussed during the above-summarized interview, the use of a diaphragm. Applicants thank the Examiner for his previous acknowledgments of the allowability of claim 4.

With respect to claim 18, neither Ollila nor any of the other cited references suggests or discloses the use of feedback signals comprising actuator position signals, bladder flow signals, or bladder pressure signals.

CONCLUSION

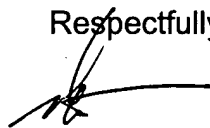
Applicants believe that they have fully responded to the Examiner's concerns and that each of the claims is in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and immediate allowance of all the claims.

Applicants request that any questions concerning this matter be directed to the undersigned at (212) 895-2906.

I certify that this paper, together with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed, is being deposited this date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 18 DECEMBER 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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